



DARK NIGHTS

2

DEFIL



**Scott
Snyder**

**Greg
Capullo**

**Jonathan
Glapion**

**FCO
Plascencia**

Capullo
17
FCO
Glapion



DARK NIGHTS

2



**Scott
Snyder**
**Greg
Capullo**
Jonathan
Glapien
FCO
Plascencia

SMEE 17
W/MAAT



DARK NIGHTS

2

METAL



**Scott
Snyder**

**Greg
Capullo**

**Jonathan
Glapion**

**ICO
Plascencia**

*Andy
Hubert
BA*

RATED **T+** TEEN PLUS DCCOMICS.COM NOV 2017



DARK NIGHTS

2

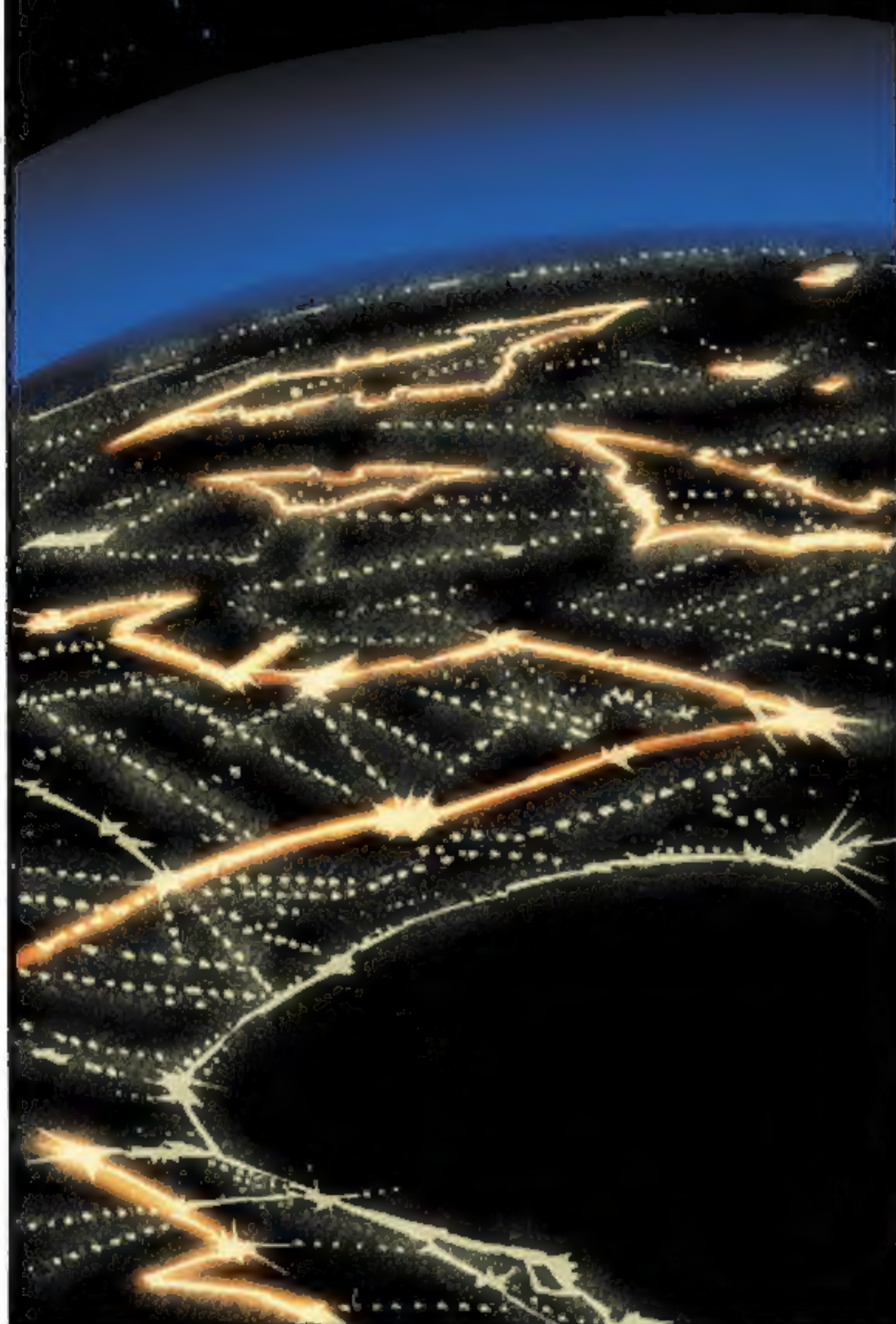


**Scott
Snyder**
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Capullo**
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FCO
Plascencia

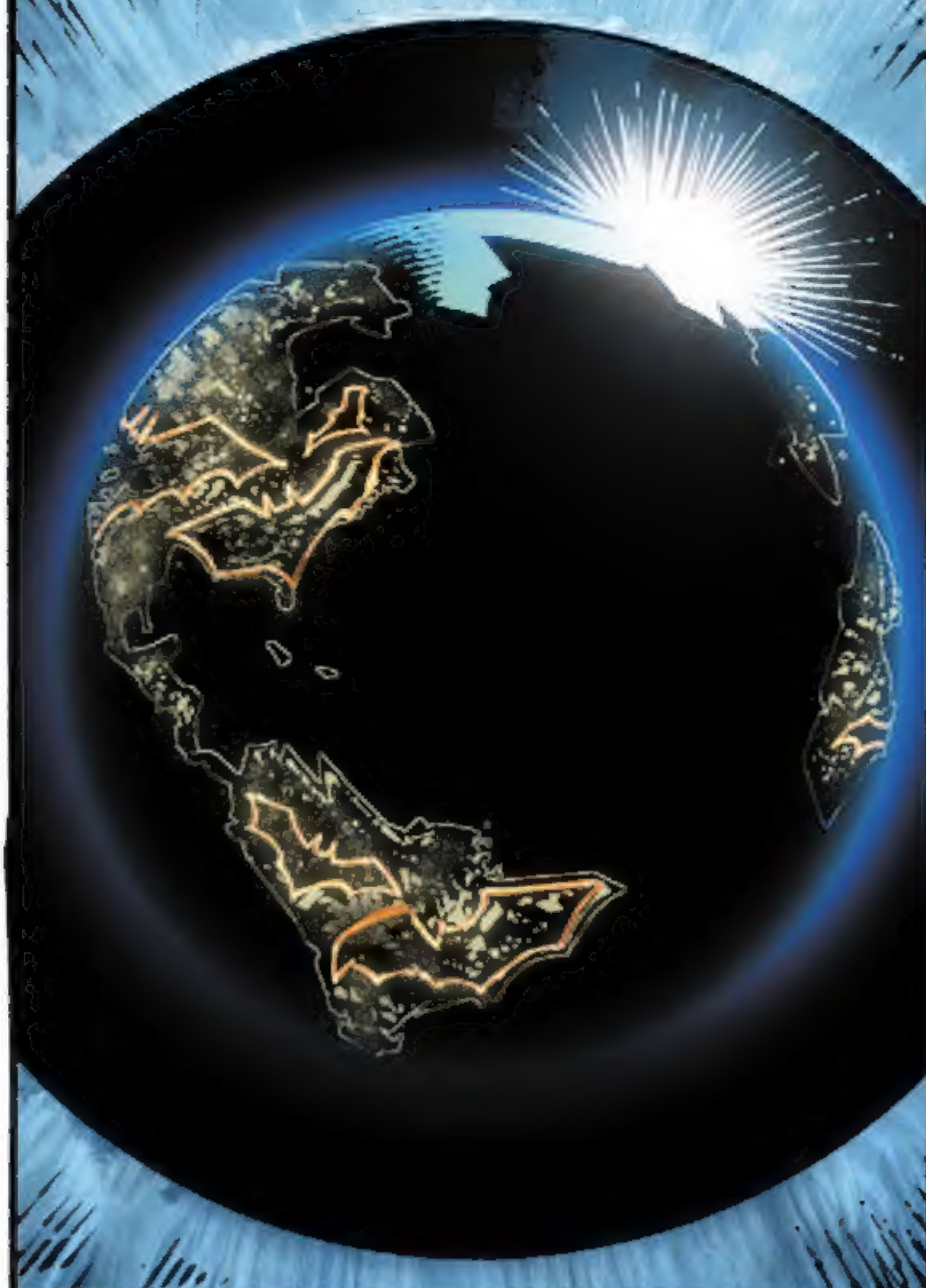
JB
JB
FRIEND
DWHITE

From the journal
of Carter Hall:

I've lived many lives and
have heard varying stories
about the beginning of our
great multiverse.



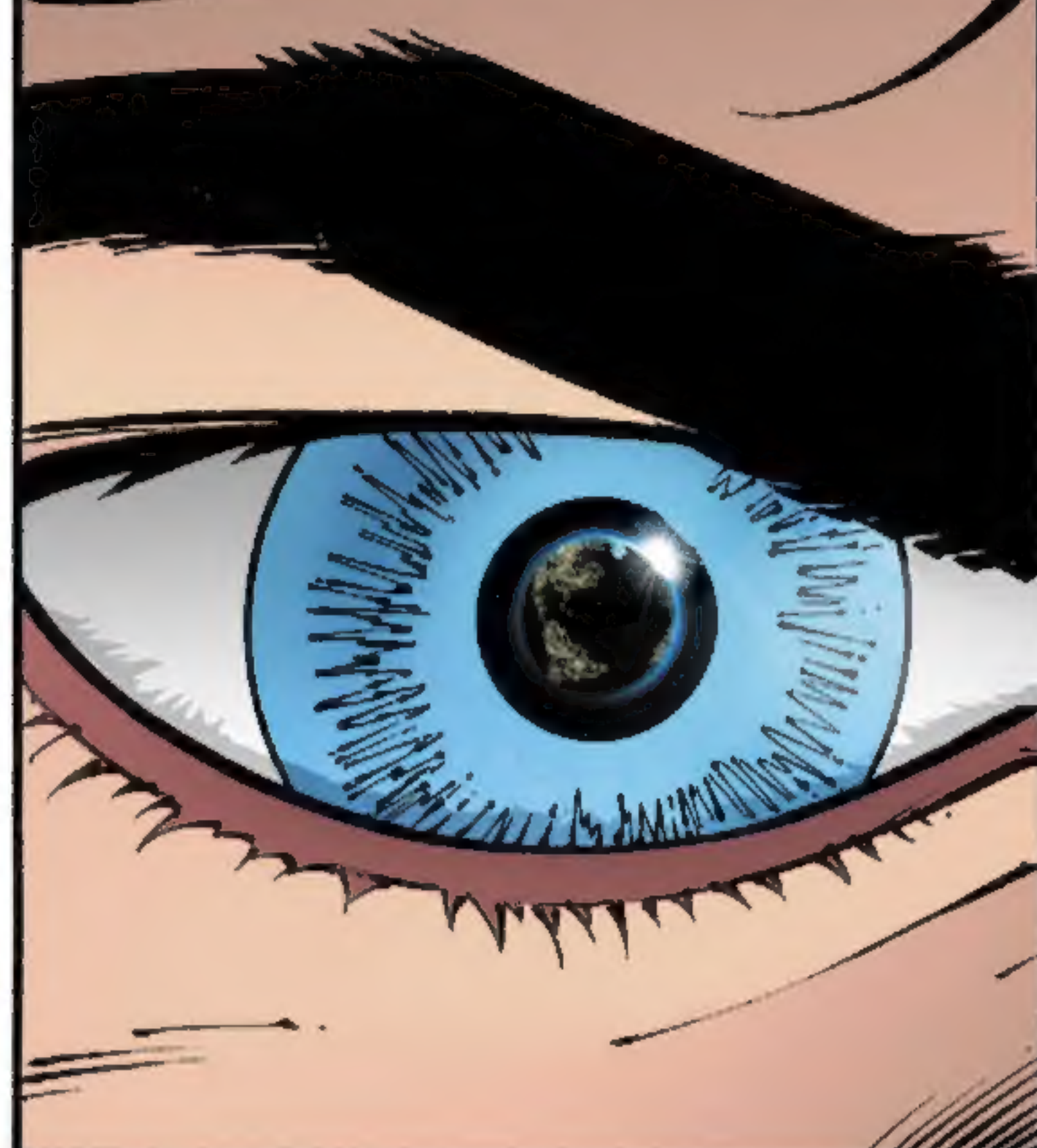
The story I heard most often,
first from an old friend
named Abin Sur, was about
an ancient scientist, Krona,
who wanted to explore the
mysteries of creation.



Krona developed a machine
to peer into the very core of
the universe...to see what
lay behind it all.

TELL
ME YOU'RE
GETTING THIS,
WONDER
WOMAN.

ALL OVER
THE WORLD.
I SEE IT.



And what he saw was a
great hand so far back
that the very act of
looking at it opened up
millions of worlds.



My point is, the actual origin
story of our entire multiverse
is about exploration, about
discovery, about searching for
that one thing you have to
find no matter what,
whatever it may.

BATMAN.

WE NEED
TO FIND BATMAN.
RIGHT. NOW.

TEAMS,
REPORT
IN.

GORILLA CITY.



GREEN
ARROW?

NOPE. HIS
HEARTBEAT WAS
A TRANSMITTER.
JUST MONKEY
BUSINESS!

NO
OFFENSE
BACK
THERE!

GRAARGH!

*ANCIENT GORILLA FOR: "WE'RE
APES, YOU @#%". - EDDIE & TAY

HOUSE OF MYSTERY.



ZATANNA,
CONSTANTINE?

JUST ANOTHER
SLEIGHT OF HAND,
SUPERMAN.

NERDLHC
FO EHT EVARG,
EB ENOG.

HOW THE
BLOODY HELL
DID HE HIDE A
TRANSMITTER IN
WALLS MADE OF
SOULS?

LEXCORP HQ. METROPOLIS.



BECAUSE HE'S
BEEN PLANNING.
BLUE BEETLE?

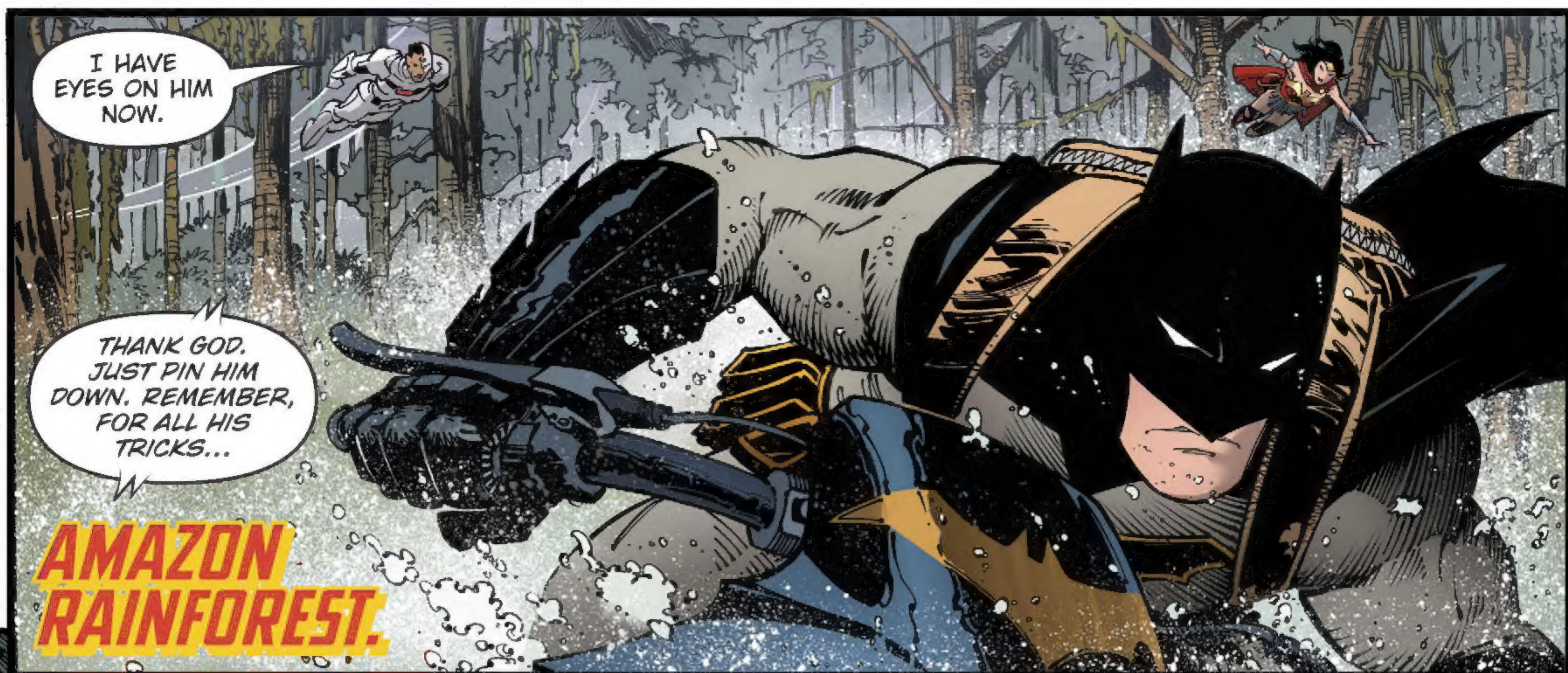
SORRY, NO LUCK
HERE! BUT SO I'M
CLEAR, WHY ARE WE
HUNTING BATMAN
AGAIN?!

FOR ONE, BECAUSE
HE'S OUR FRIEND AND
HE'S IN TROUBLE.

AND FOR ANOTHER? IF KENDRA AND
THE BLACKHAWKS ARE CORRECT, HE JUST
STOLE THE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON
IN THE UNIVERSE AND WE NEED TO
FIND HIM. YESTERDAY.

CYBORG. WE'VE GOT
DARK ENERGY RISING, CAUSING
STORMS EVERYWHERE, BAT SYMBOLS
LIGHTING UP IN HIDDEN METAL ACROSS
THE GLOBE. STORIES OF A COSMIC
DEMON COMING FOR BRUCE...
PLEASE TELL ME YOU--

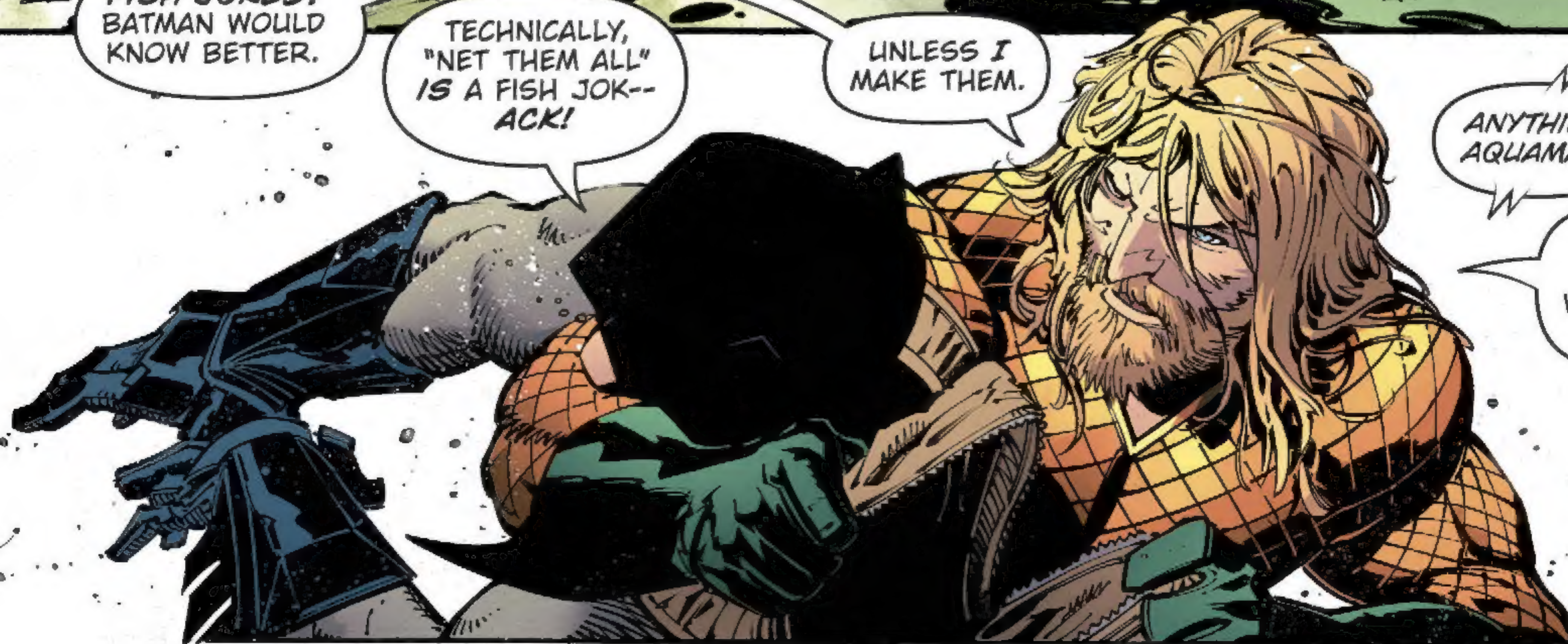
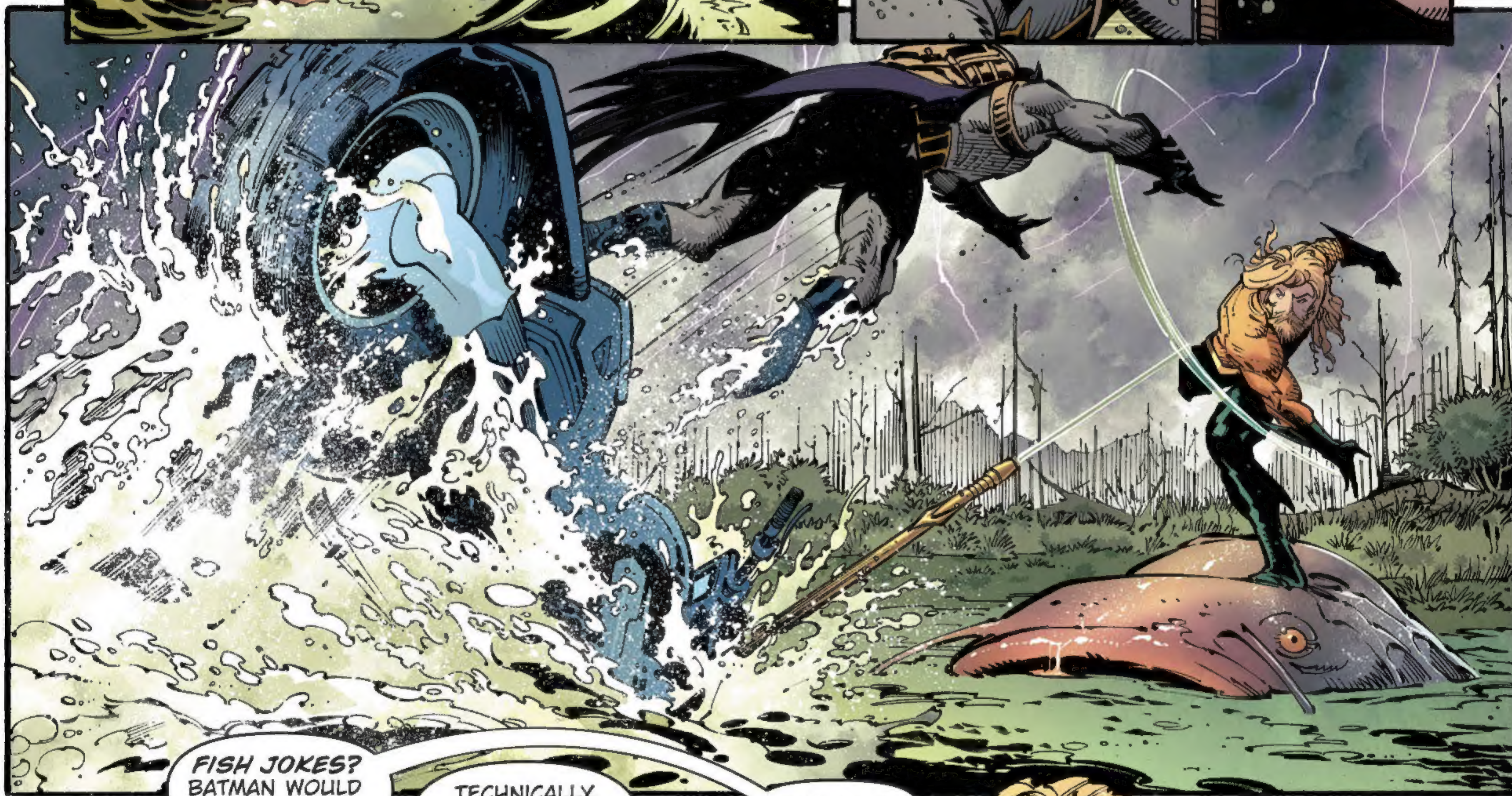
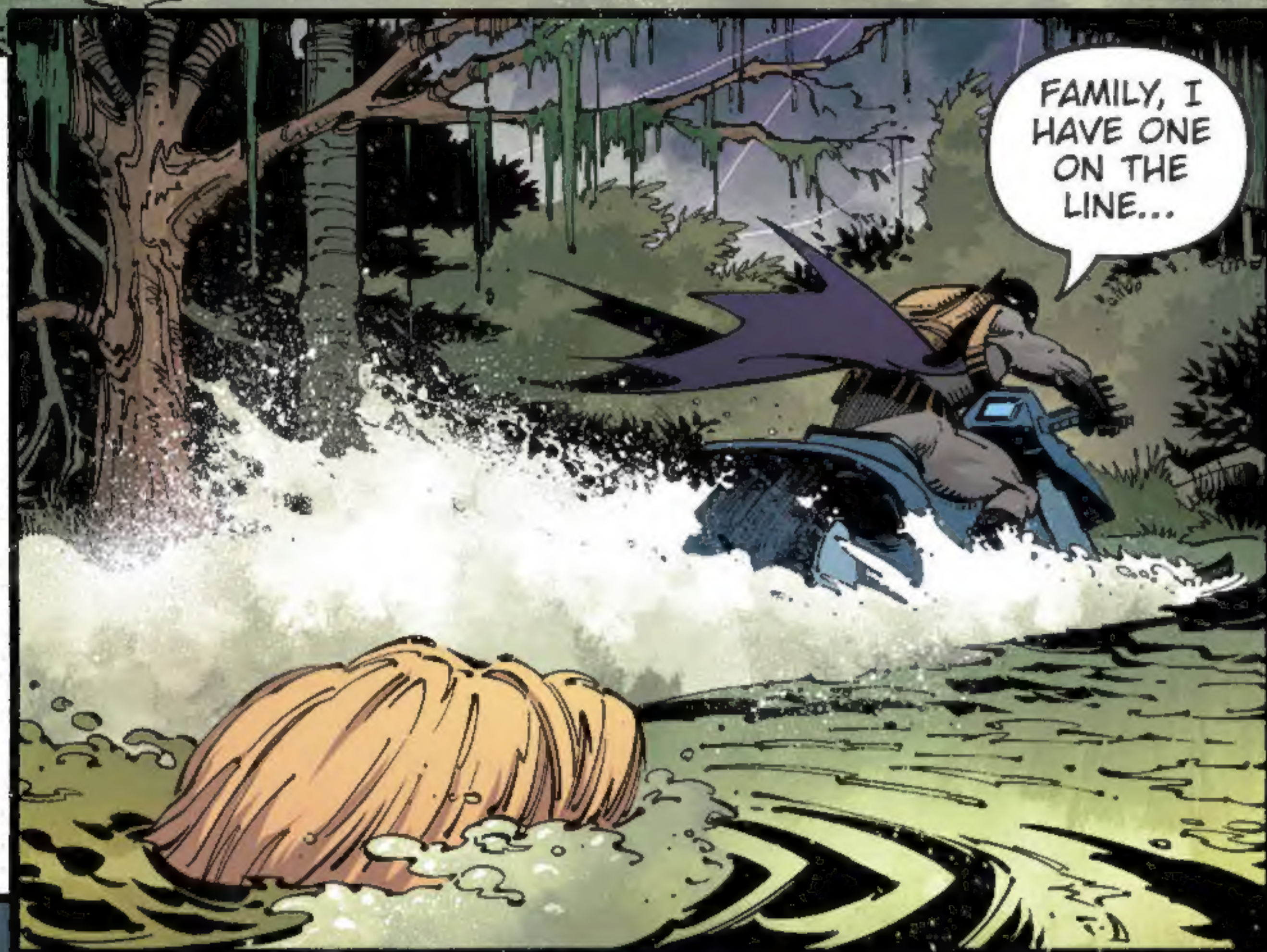
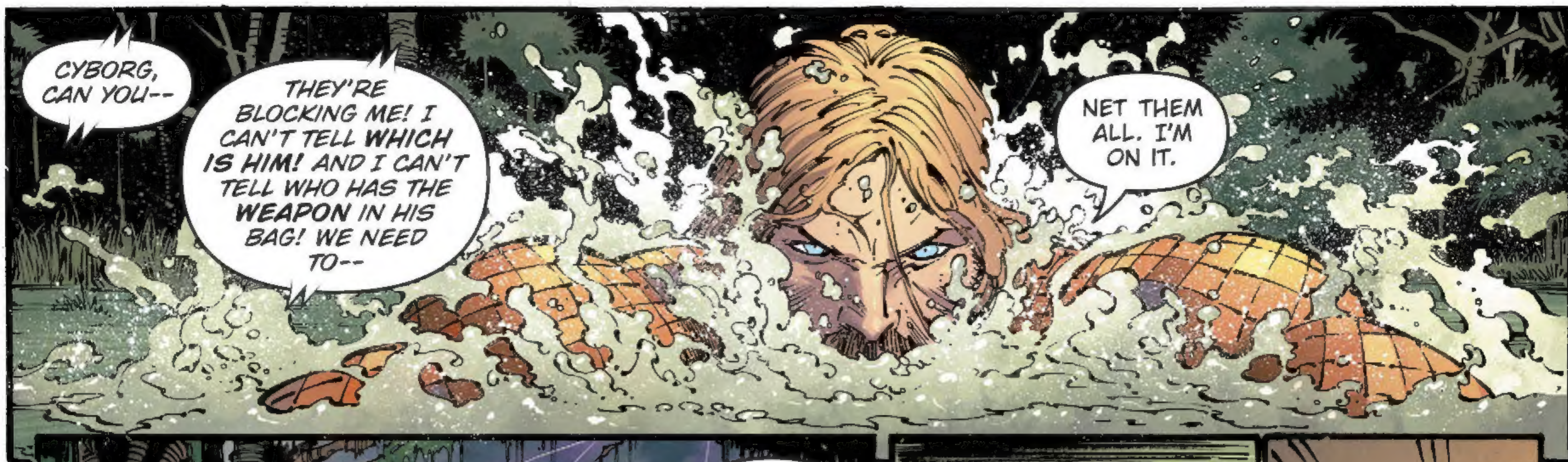
WE
FOUND
HIM!

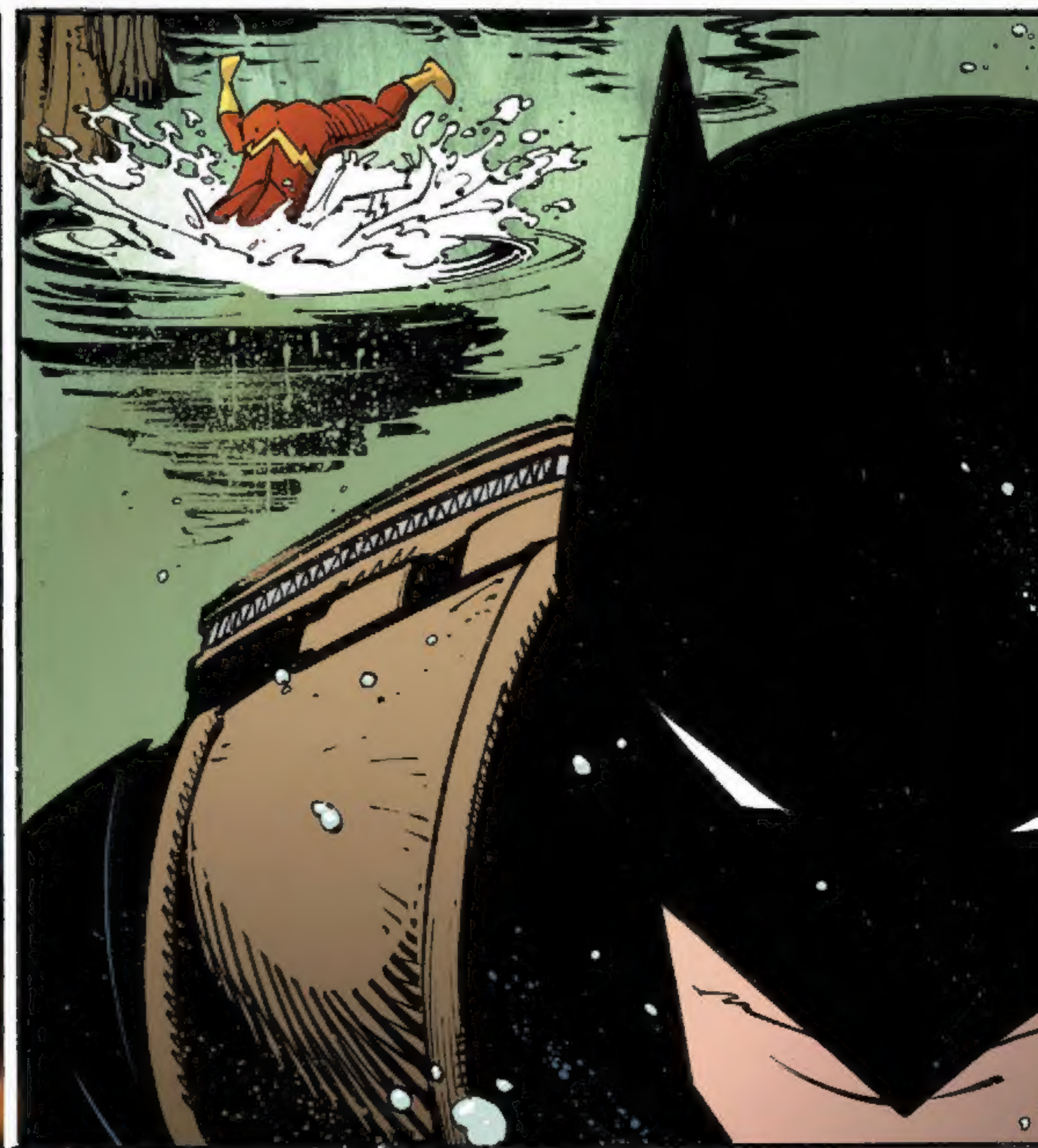




A DC COMICS EVENT

Scott "Sword Sovereign" Snyder
Greg "Lead Thrasher" Capullo
Jonathan "Jolt of Lightning" Glapion
FCO "The Fallen" Plascencia
FCO "The Fallen" Plascencia Cover
Greg Capullo, Jonathan Glapion & FCO Plascencia
Jim "Jailer" Lee, Scott "Spike" Williams & Alex "Avalanche" Sinclair
Andy "Ax Man" Rubert & Brad "The Banished" Anderson
John "Judgment Day" Romita Jr., Richard "The Righteous" Friend & Dean
"Dagger" White Variant Covers
Dave "Dragon Slayer" Wielgosz Asst. Editor
Rebecca "Thunder Dome" Taylor & Eddie "Eradicator" Berganza Editors
Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger
Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family







HAR. HAR. HAR.
ONE HUNDRED AND
TWENTY MILES A
SECOND.

AND NOW YOU'RE
THE **LAST MAN**
STANDING.

I'VE CRACKED THEIR
CODE. I SEE YOU,
NIGHTWING.

AND YOU, **BATWOMAN**.
BATGIRL. **RED HOOD**.
BATWING.

LISTEN TO US,
NIGHTWING. IF HE TOOK
WHAT THEY SAY HE
TOOK, AND IT'S IN THAT
BAG, IT'S **FAR TOO**
DEADLY FOR ANY ONE
BEING IN THE UNIVERSE
TO POSSESS.

YOU NEED
TO GIVE IT
TO US.
NOW.

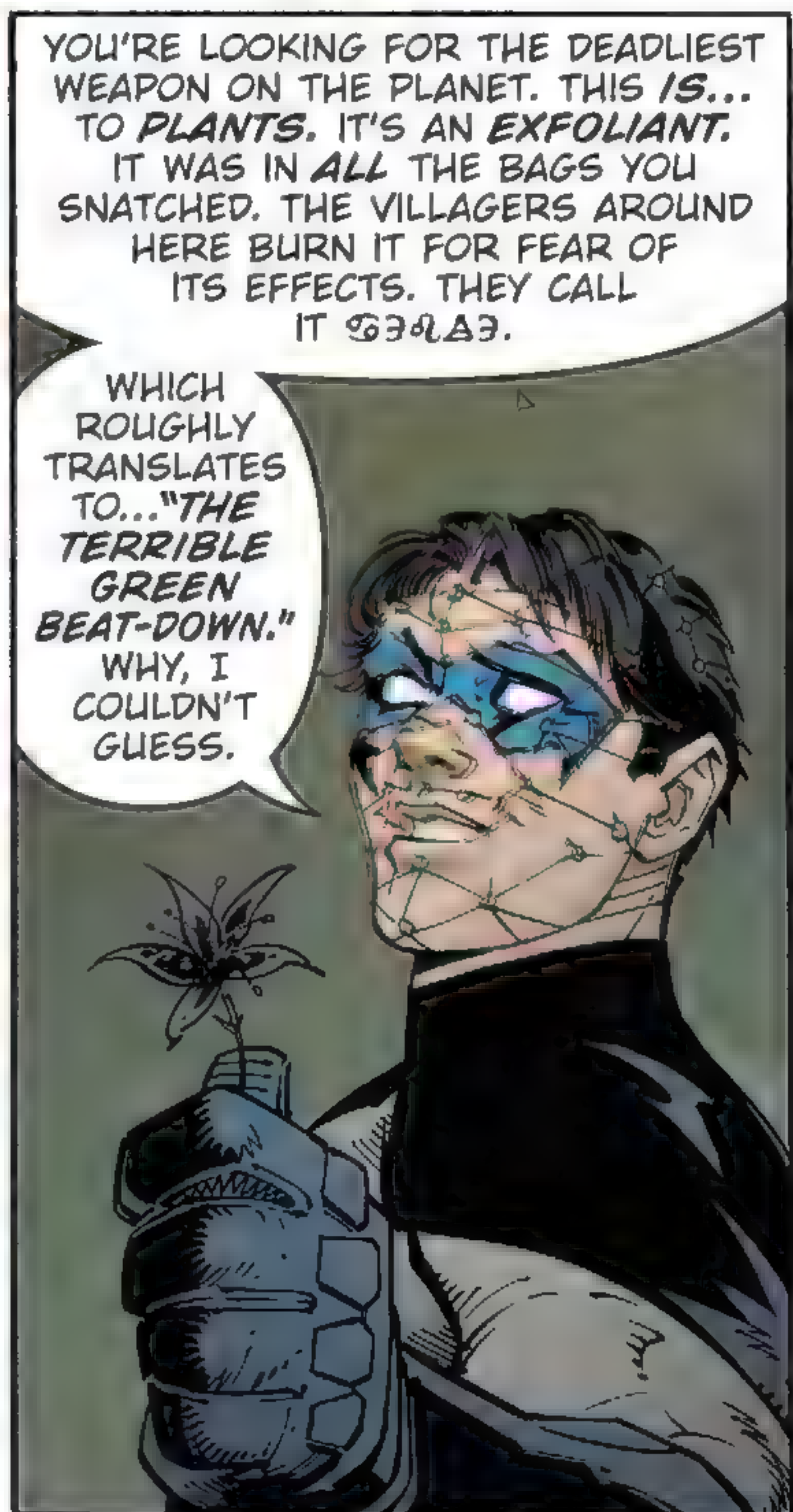


...
ALL RIGHT,
GREEN LANTERN.
YOU WIN.



WHAT IS
THIS--A
JOKE?

HERE.



YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE DEADLIEST
WEAPON ON THE PLANET. THIS *IS*...
TO **PLANTS**. IT'S AN **EXFOLIANT**.
IT WAS IN **ALL** THE BAGS YOU
SNATCHED. THE VILLAGERS AROUND
HERE BURN IT FOR FEAR OF
ITS EFFECTS. THEY CALL
IT ๓๓๑๒๓.

WHICH
ROUGHLY
TRANSLATES
TO...**"THE
TERRIBLE
GREEN
BEAT-DOWN."**
WHY, I
COULDN'T
GUESS.



WAIT. CYBORG, WHAT ARE OUR COORDINATES? FAST!

THE GROUND, IT'S SHAKING...

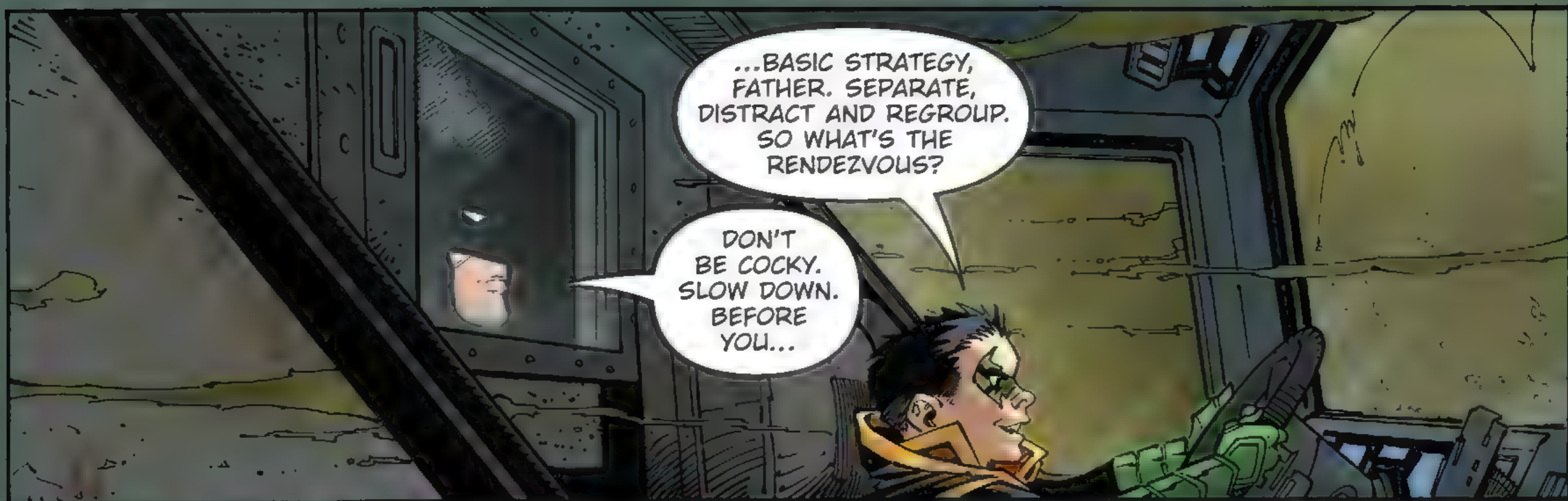


WE'RE... WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT N--

WHO DARES?!

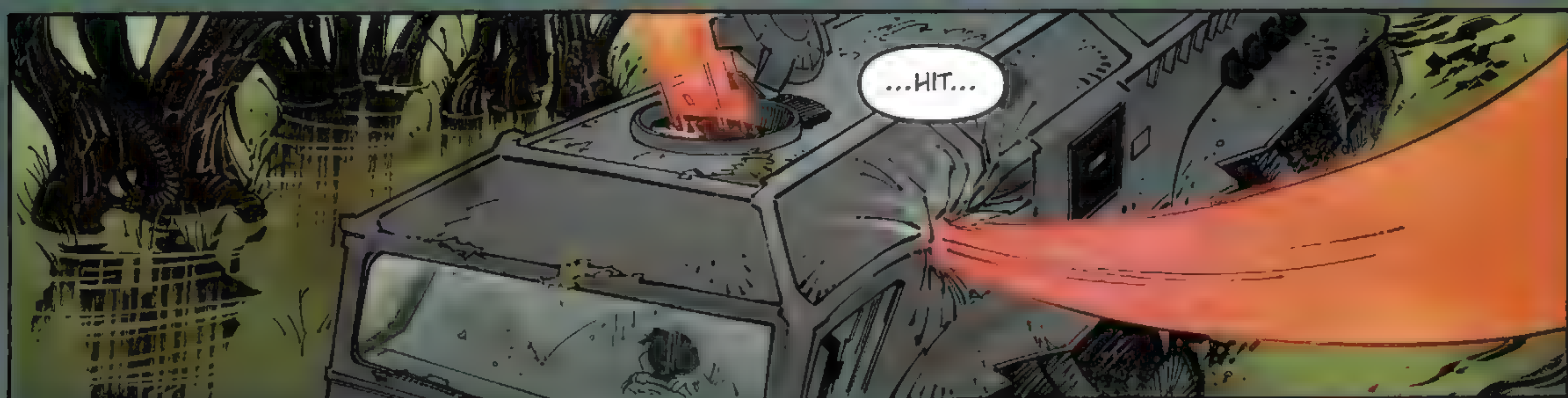


WHO DARES HARM THE GREEN HERE?! AT THE PARLIAMENT OF TREES?!



...BASIC STRATEGY, FATHER. SEPARATE, DISTRACT AND REGROUP. SO WHAT'S THE RENDEZVOUS?

DON'T BE COCKY. SLOW DOWN. BEFORE YOU...



...HIT...

...SOMETHING.



ENOUGH.

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SO LONG, I KNOW YOUR **HEARTBEAT** NEARLY AS WELL AS LOIS'. I UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT KENDRA SAID **SCARED** YOU, AND I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO FIGURE THIS OUT YOURSELF...

...BUT TAKING WHAT'S IN THAT BAG, RUNNING OFF... YOU NEED TO LET US **HELP!** WHATEVER'S COMING FOR YOU--

GET THE HELL OFF ME BEFORE--

DAMMIT, LOOK AT ME!

IT'S **ME.** WE'RE **BROTHERS.** NOW WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS GOING ON?!



ALL
RIGHT...

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND! I'M THE
ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP IT!
THIS...THING...BARBATOS, IT'S
BEEN TARGETING ME FOR YEARS!
I'VE EVEN FELT IT, WATCHING
FROM THE DARK, SHAPING
THINGS.

IT FIRST SAW
ME WHEN I WENT BACK
IN TIME. IT SAW ME AND
IT'S BEEN PREPARING
ME...THEY'VE BEEN
PREPARING ME.

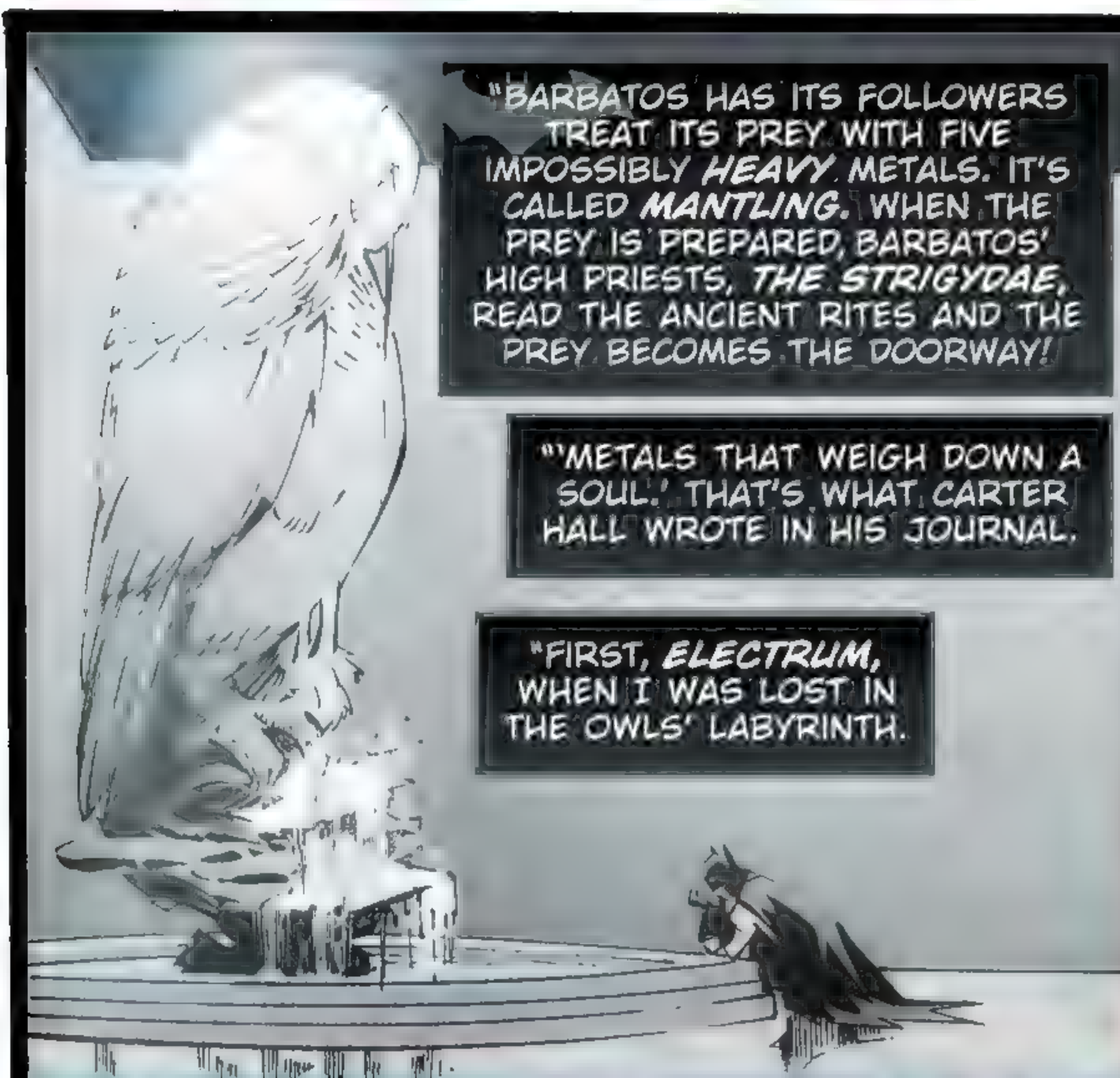
WHO?



THE JUDAS TRIBE.
THE MANTLING HAS
ALREADY STARTED...IT'S
BEEN DONE TO ME...

WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE NOT MAKING
ANY SEN--

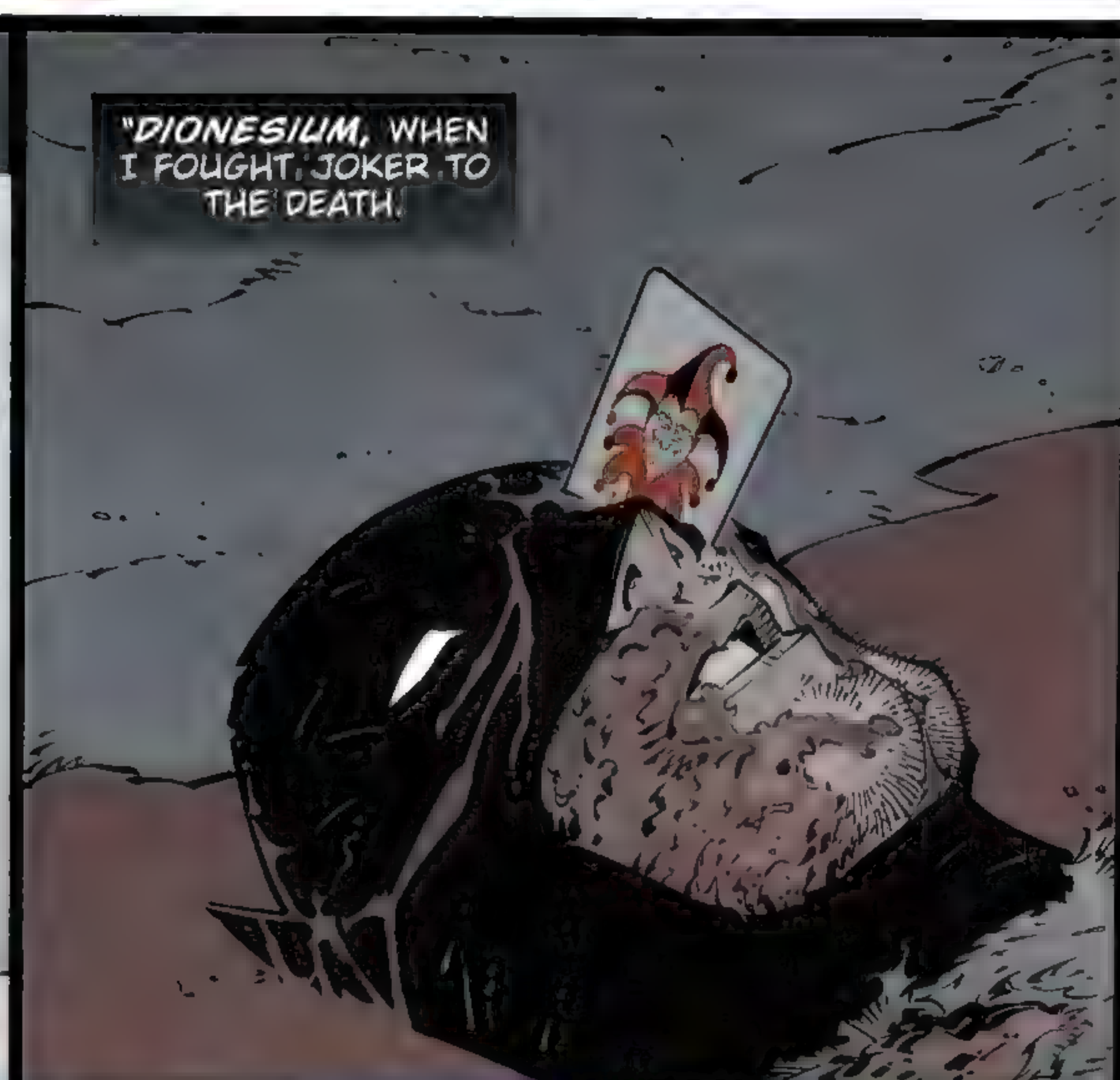
DAMMIT I'M
TALKING ABOUT
METAL! HEAVY
METAL! JUST
LIKE KENDRA
SAID!



"BARBATOS HAS ITS FOLLOWERS
TREAT ITS PREY WITH FIVE
IMPOSSIBLY HEAVY METALS. IT'S
CALLED MANTLING. WHEN THE
PREY IS PREPARED, BARBATOS'
HIGH PRIESTS, THE STRIGYDAE,
READ THE ANCIENT RITES AND THE
PREY BECOMES THE DOORWAY!

"METALS THAT WEIGH DOWN A
SOUL.' THAT'S WHAT CARTER
HALL WROTE IN HIS JOURNAL.

"FIRST, **ELECTRUM**,
WHEN I WAS LOST IN
THE OWLS' LABYRINTH.



"DIONESIUM, WHEN
I FOUGHT JOKER TO
THE DEATH.



"PROMETHIUM,
PRESENT IN MY FINAL
MACHINE, WHICH I USED
TO MAKE ME BATMAN
AGAIN AFTER I DIED
FIGHTING THE JOKER.



"AND NOW **NTH METAL**,
WHICH I EXPOSED MYSELF
TO WHEN I ATTEMPTED
TO LOOK INTO THE DARK
MYSELF, WITH GREEN
LANTERN AND DUKE.

"THERE'S ONLY
ONE METAL LEFT. I
DON'T KNOW WHAT
IT IS, BUT IF THEY
INFECT ME WITH IT,
I'LL BECOME THE
DOORWAY.

"A COSMIC COUNTER-
WEIGHT. I GO THERE,
HE COMES HERE.
WITH WHATEVER
NIGHTMARES OF
MINE HE'S PULLED
FROM THE DARK!"

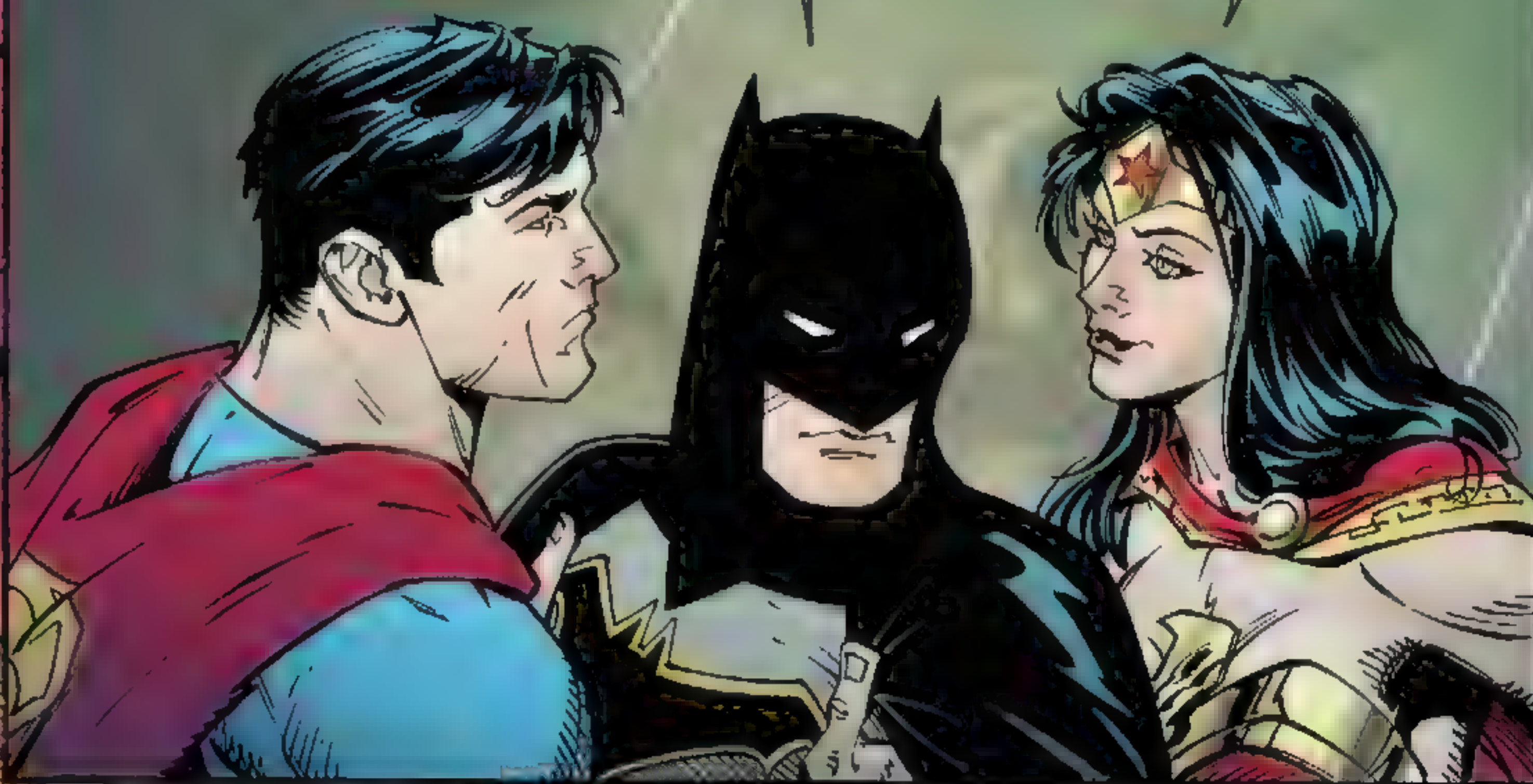
"HOW DO WE STOP IT?"

"I DON'T KNOW THAT WE CAN! IT'S HAPPENING NOW, IN METROPOLIS, ALL OVER THE WORLD. METALS LACED BY THE JUDAS TRIBE... CONDUCTORS... THEY'RE SCREAMING OUT THAT BARBATOS IS COMING! GETTING CLOSER!"

THERE HAS TO BE A WAY.

THERE MIGHT BE...BUT THE KEY IS FAR FROM HERE. VERY FAR. COME WITH ME--WE CAN TAKE THE BAG, AND--

ENOUGH. HE'S STILL LYING. I DON'T NEED MY LASSO TO TELL ME THAT. HE'S STALLING US...

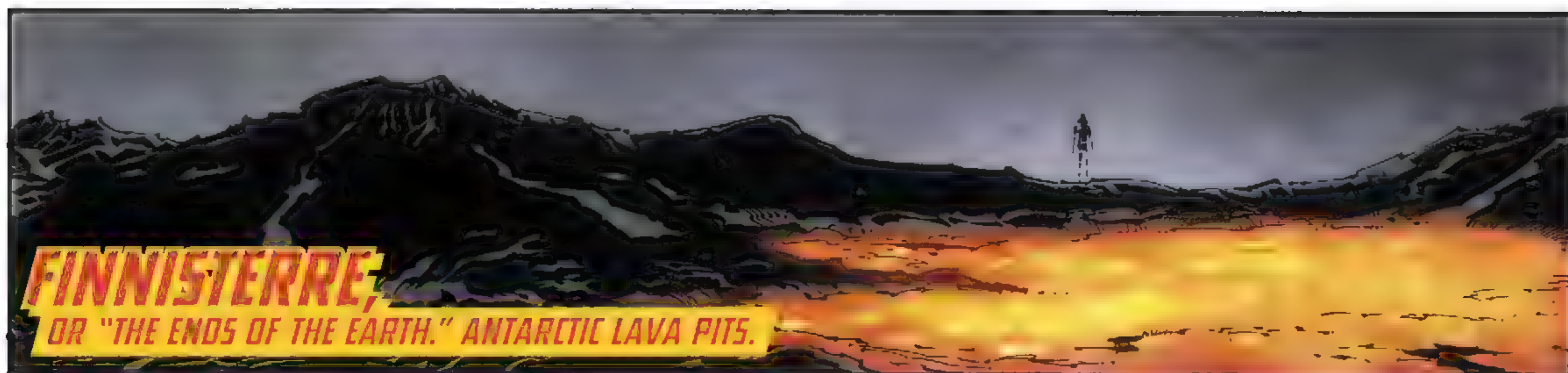




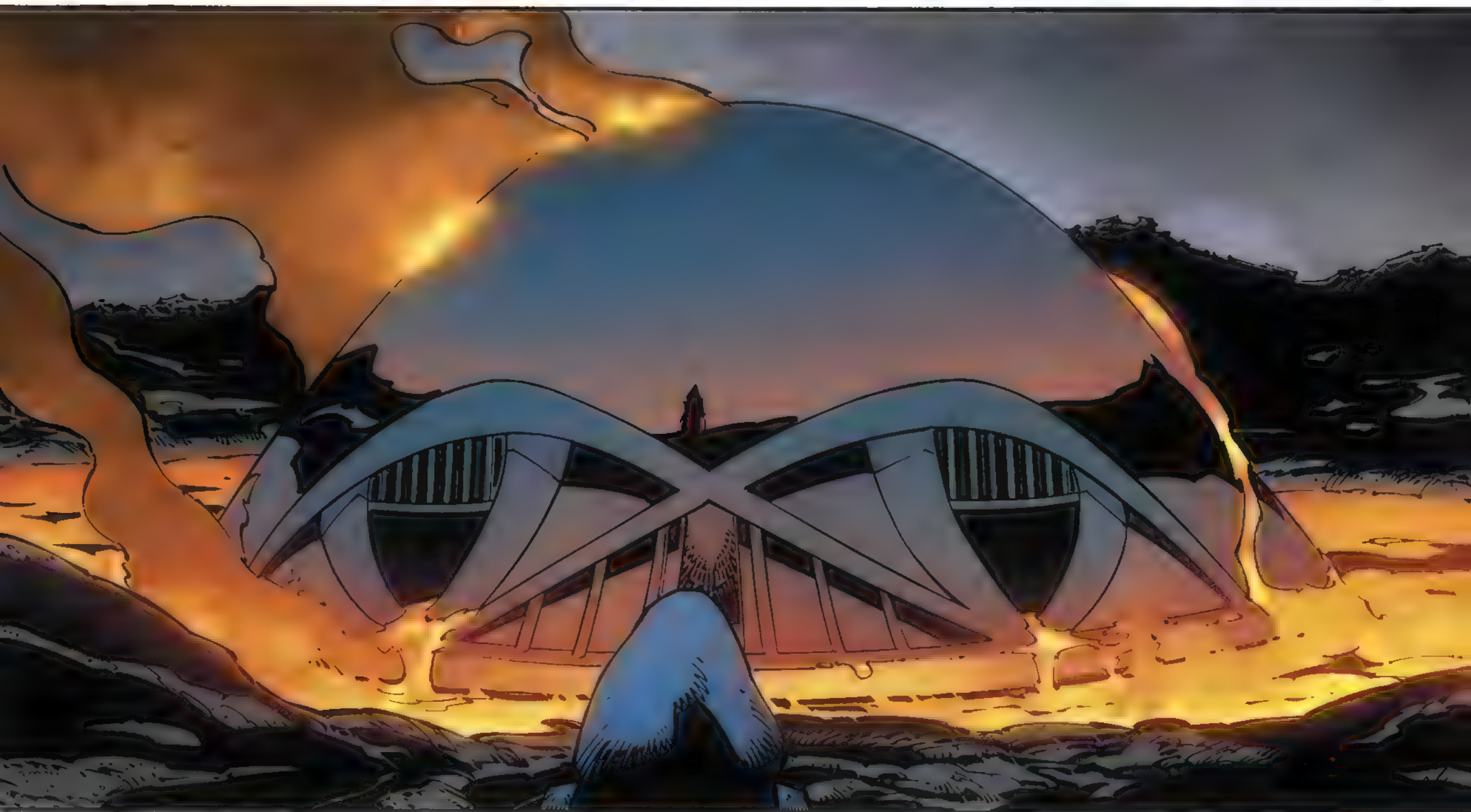
I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST...I MEANT WHAT I SAID EARLIER. I **KNOW HIS HEART**. AND HE MADE THESE BY TRANSMITTING HIS OWN HEARTBEAT. BUT THE RHYTHM...**HE'S SCARED**, DIANA. MORE SCARED THAN I'VE EVER SEEN HIM.

AND I'M SCARED **FOR** HIM. FOR ALL OF US.

WE'LL SOLVE THIS, SUPERMAN, IF IT TAKES US TO THE **ENDS OF THE EARTH**. WE WILL.



FINNISTERRE,
OR "THE ENDS OF THE EARTH." ANTARCTIC LAVA PITS.



"PARDON THE DECOR, KENDRA, I'M BUILDING THIS PLACE FOR...ANOTHER PURPOSE, BUT WITH OUR **NEED FOR SECRECY**, IT'S THE BEST THERE IS."

"ENOUGH. I WOULD NEVER ASSOCIATE WITH YOU IF THIS WEREN'T DIRE, **VANDAL**. NONE OF US WOULD, BUT BATMAN IS STILL MISSING, AND THE **VISIONS** HAVE STARTED. **DOCTOR FATE, JOHN HENRY IRONS...** THEY HAVE SEEN BARBATOS' ARMY."

"AND THE ONE CALLED **PLASTIC MAN**...THE UNSTABLE CELLS THAT MAKE UP HIS BODY ARE VIBRATING AT FREQUENCIES WE'VE NEVER RECORDED BEFORE. HE COULD BE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S COMING. IF WE CAN **FIND HIM**..."





THERE IS NO TIME. WE ARE THE OLDEST BEINGS ON THE PLANET, *IMMORTALS*, MANY OF US DESCENDED FROM THE ORIGINAL TRIBES. WE HAVE FACED THIS THREAT BEFORE, AND WE MUST USE THE *ULTIMATE OPTION* IF NECESSARY.

BUT IF WE USE THE *BRAIN*--

IF...YOU MEAN *WHEN*. WE VOTED, KENDRA. WHILE YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR WAYNE. IT WAS DECIDED.

YOU WILL TAKE THE *ANTI-MONITOR'S* ASTRAL BRAIN AND YOU WILL FIRE IT THROUGH THE CORE OF THE MULTIVERSE, AT THE *ROCK OF ETERNITY*, AND DESTROY THE DARK MULTIVERSE ONCE AND FOR ALL...

IT *SHALL* BE DONE.

MORGAINE, GREAT WIZARD, CARTER WARNED US, MIXING ANTI-MATTER AND DARK MATTER, IT COULD--

AND WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE HAVE?!

WE KEEP LOOKING.

THE TIME FOR THAT IS OVER!

FORGIVE ME. I KNOW I AM THE YOUNGEST HERE, BUT I DO KNOW THE *DETECTIVE* WELL. AND WHAT HE WOULD BE DOING RIGHT NOW IS FINDING A WAY TO *FIGHT* THIS.

HE'D BE TRYING TO TAKE *BARBATOS* ON HIMSELF, HEAD ON. IS THERE ANYWHERE THAT IMPULSE MIGHT LEAD HIM?

NO. THE ONLY WAY WOULD BE TO GO BACK TO THE START. AND FOR THAT HE'D NEED TO FIND THE ANCIENT RESTING PLACE OF...

OH NO.



VALLEY OF THE KINGS.

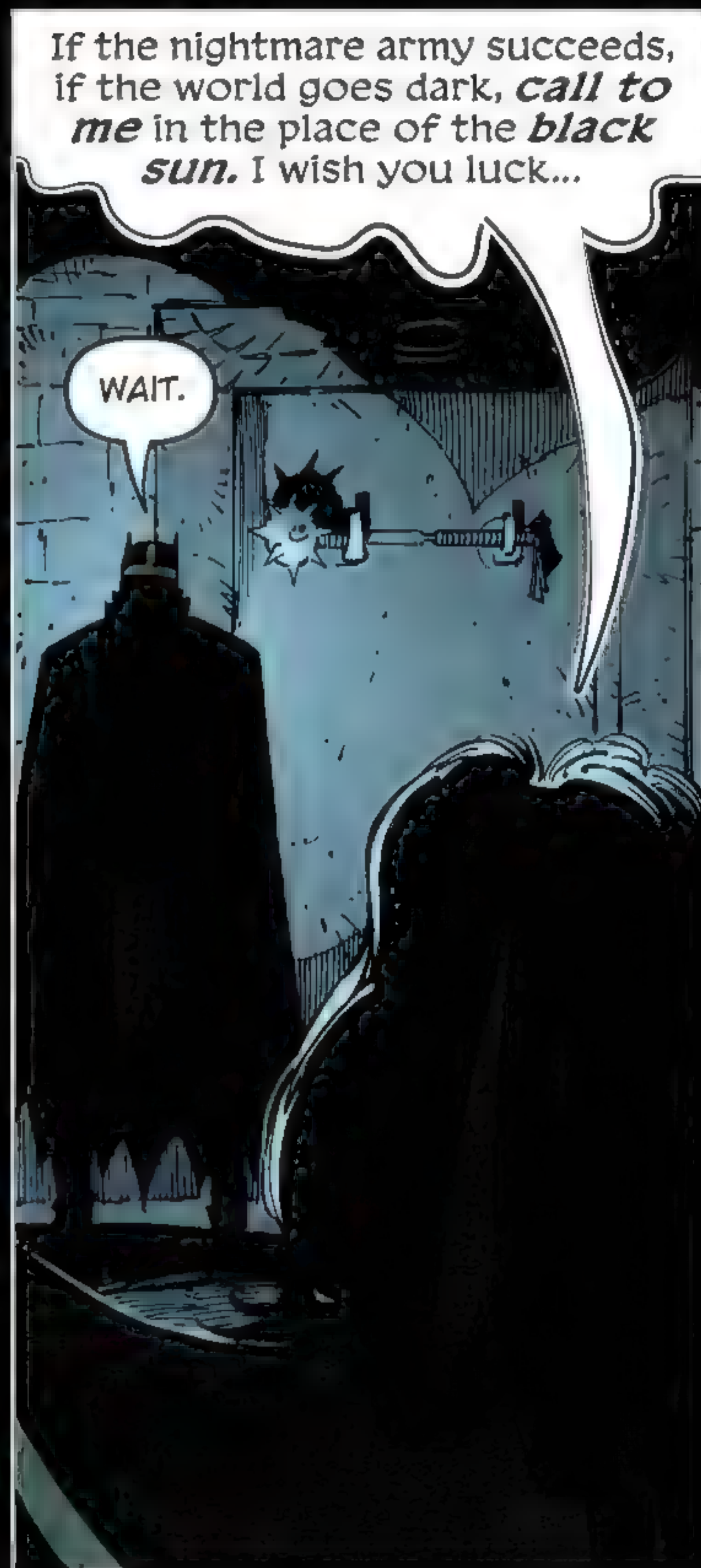
TOMB OF PRINCE KHUFU.



I CAN FEEL YOU THERE, **DREAM**. PLEASE. TELL ME MY PLAN IS THE RIGHT ONE.



I cannot speak to your plan, Batman. I've done what I can for you in this realm.



If the nightmare army succeeds, if the world goes dark, **call to me** in the place of the **black sun**. I wish you luck...

WAIT.



DREAM. DREAM! AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING?



I DON'T KNOW **WHO** YOU'RE TALKING TO, BRUCE, BUT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION... **NO.**



YOU'RE NOT DOING THE RIGHT THING, NOT BY A LONG SHOT. NOW GIVE US THAT BAG.

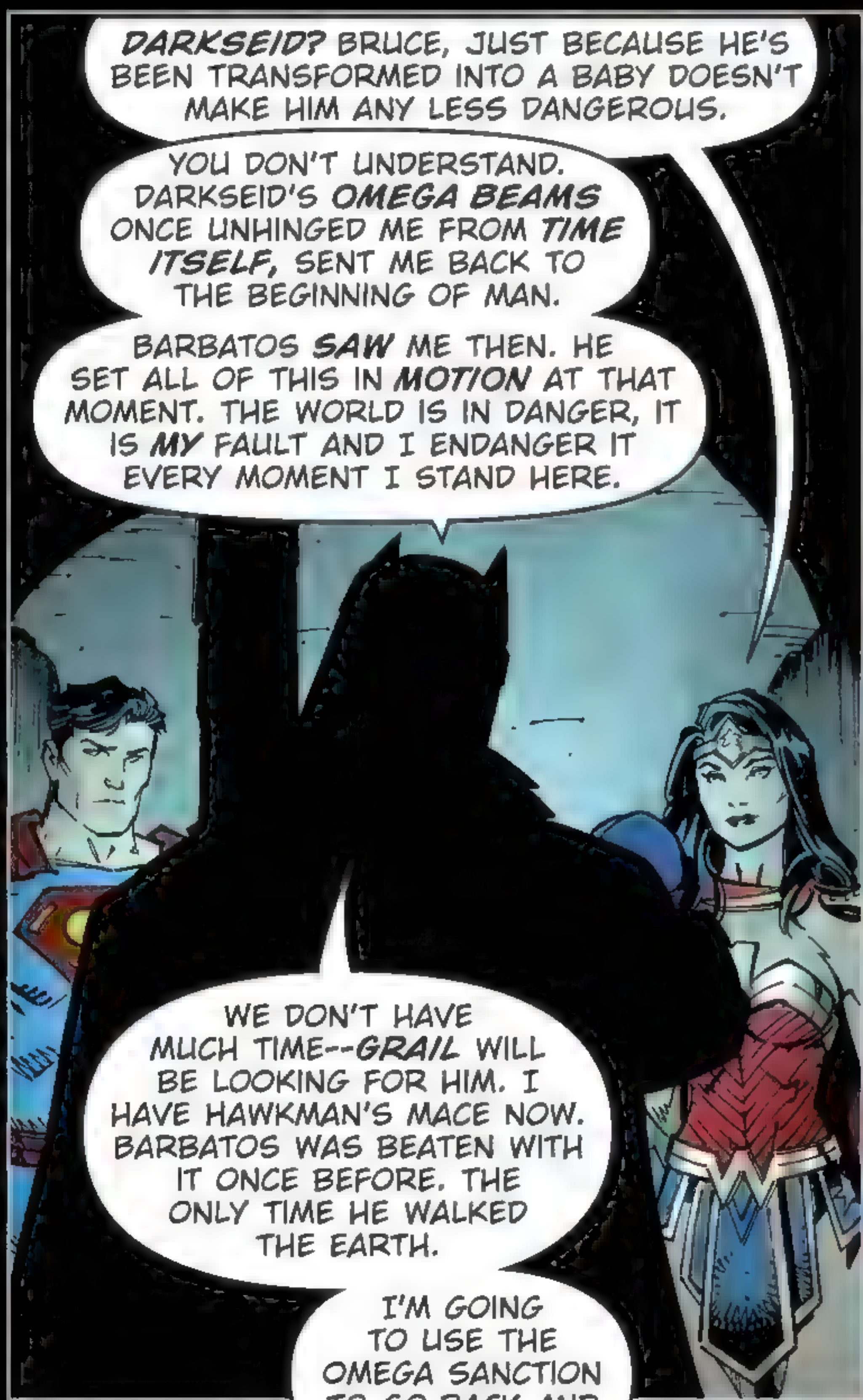
PLEASE. YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S CAPABLE OF. IT'S DESTROYED ENTIRE WORLDS BEFORE, KILLED PEOPLE WE BOTH CARED ABOUT.



I KNOW...



...AND I'M HERE TO USE HIM! NOW, STAY BACK!



DARKSEID? BRUCE, JUST BECAUSE HE'S BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A BABY DOESN'T MAKE HIM ANY LESS DANGEROUS.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. DARKSEID'S **OMEGA BEAMS** ONCE UNHINGED ME FROM **TIME ITSELF**, SENT ME BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF MAN.

BARBATOS **SAW** ME THEN. HE SET ALL OF THIS IN **MOTION** AT THAT MOMENT. THE WORLD IS IN DANGER, IT IS **MY** FAULT AND I ENDANGER IT EVERY MOMENT I STAND HERE.

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME--**GRAIL** WILL BE LOOKING FOR HIM. I HAVE HAWKMAN'S MACE NOW. BARBATOS WAS BEATEN WITH IT ONCE BEFORE. THE ONLY TIME HE WALKED THE EARTH.

I'M GOING TO USE THE **OMEGA SANCTION** TO GO BACK AND DO IT AGAIN.

THE **OMEGA SANCTION**?! YOU ONLY ESCAPED THAT TIME BECAUSE--

BECAUSE BARBATOS WANTED ME TO.

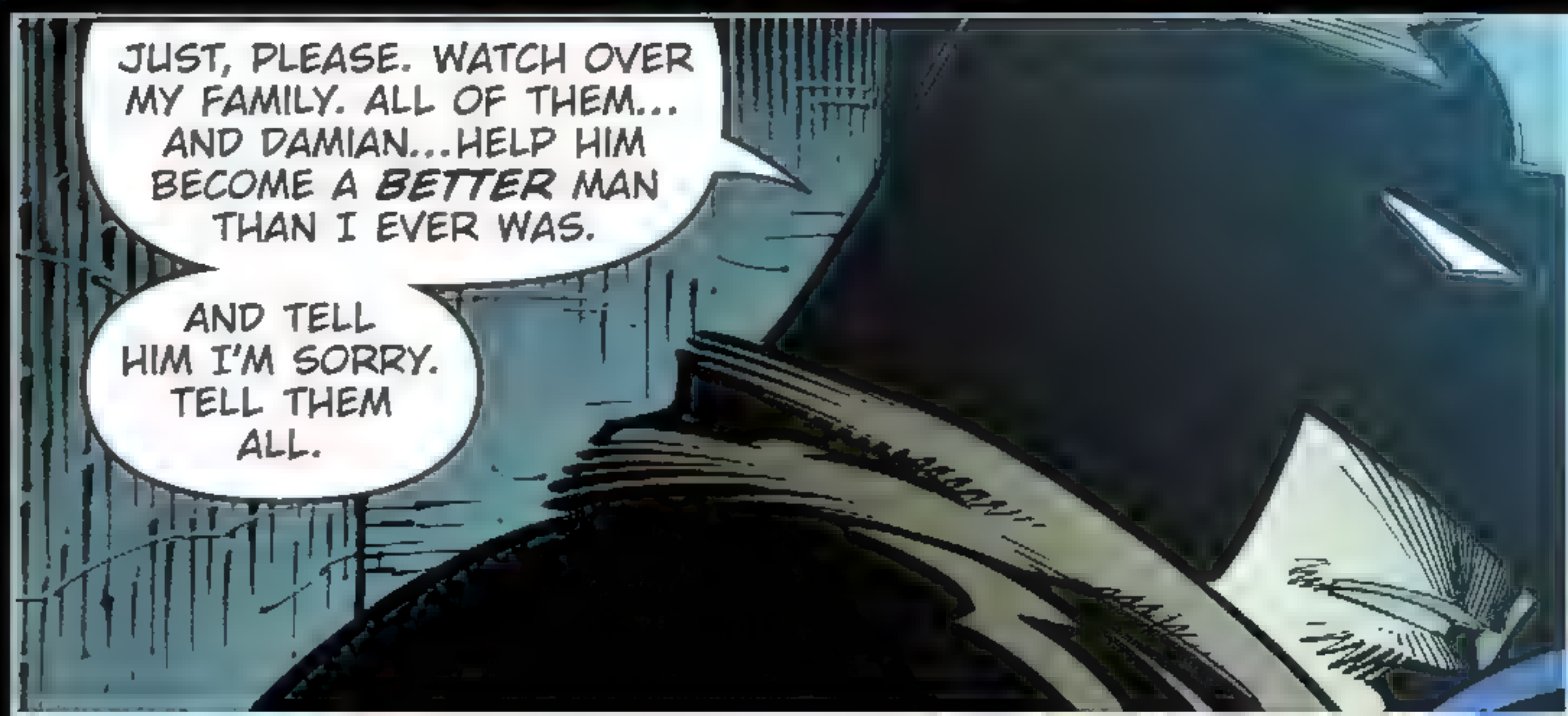
IT'S PURE MADNESS, BRUCE. YOU GO BACK, YOU'LL **ERASE** YOURSELF FROM THE WORLD. YOU'LL ERASE BATMAN FOREVER.



YOU DON'T THINK I KNOW THAT?! I KNOW IT'S A ONE-WAY... JUST...

JUST, PLEASE. WATCH OVER MY FAMILY. ALL OF THEM... AND DAMIAN...HELP HIM BECOME A **BETTER** MAN THAN I EVER WAS.

AND TELL HIM I'M SORRY. TELL THEM ALL.



NOW, WHEN I REMOVE THESE GODWAVE GOGGLES, WE'LL ALL BE AT RISK. I NEED YOU BOTH TO STAND BACK!

BATMAN, PLEASE...

ZZKT- IT'S KENDRA. WONDER WOMAN, DO YOU HEAR ME? DID YOU FIND HIM?

NOT NOW, KENDRA...

NO! LISTEN, DAMMIT. HE ZZKT- THINKS HE'S IN THE TOMB OF PRINCE KHUFU. BUT HE'S NOT.

I DESTROYED THAT TOMB DECADES AGO ZZTK- THEY MISDIRECTED HIM, AND ZZTK- WALKED RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP!

THE TOMB OF HATH SET

HE'S IN THE TOMB OF HATH SET! YOU'VE BEEN SET UP!

NO...

ARRGH!

WHAT IS...?

AAHHH!

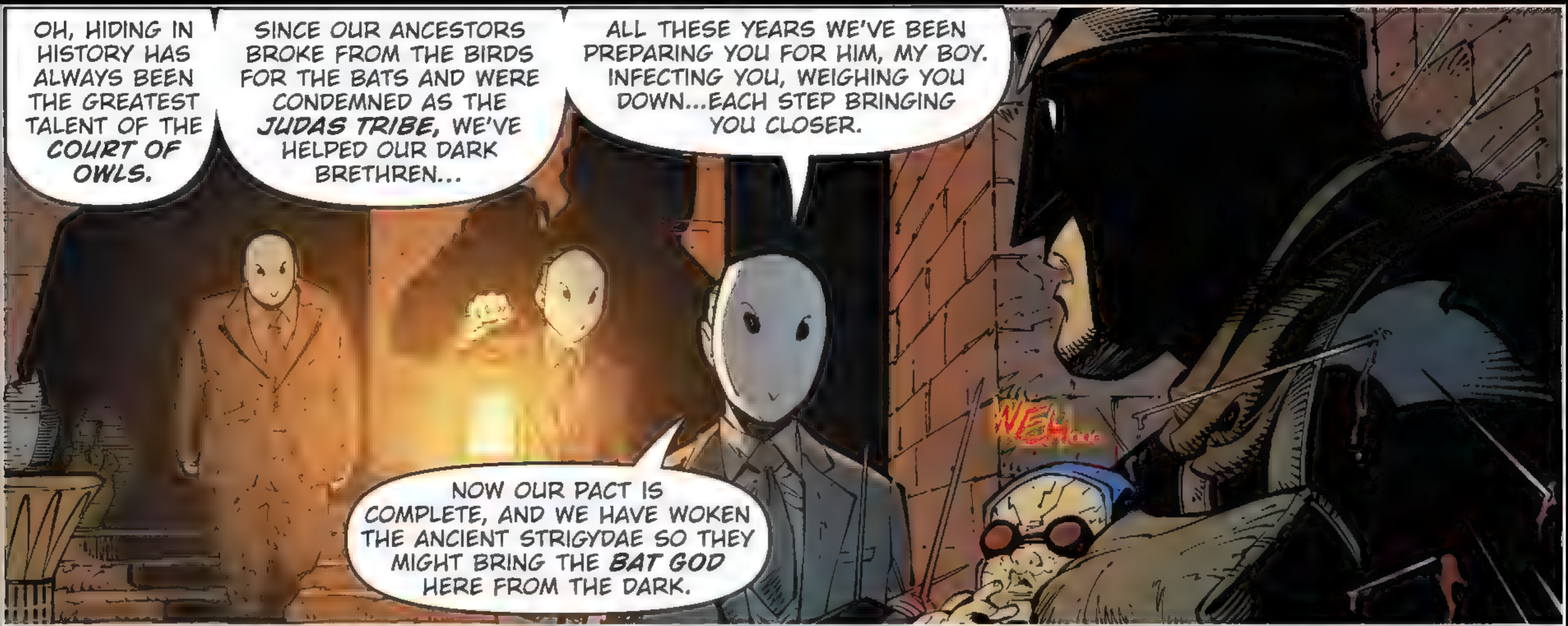
IT HAS BEEN SO LONG...

...SO LONG SINCE OUR EYES HAVE RESTED ON YOU, GREAT TRAVELER... WE, THE ANCIENT PRIESTS WHO SERVE THE DARK GOD BARBATOS IN YOUR NAME.

SO LONG HAVE WE STRIGYDAE WAITED FOR THIS DAY. FOR THE MANTLING.

AND NOW IT IS UPON US!

HOW...HOW DID YOU DO THIS?

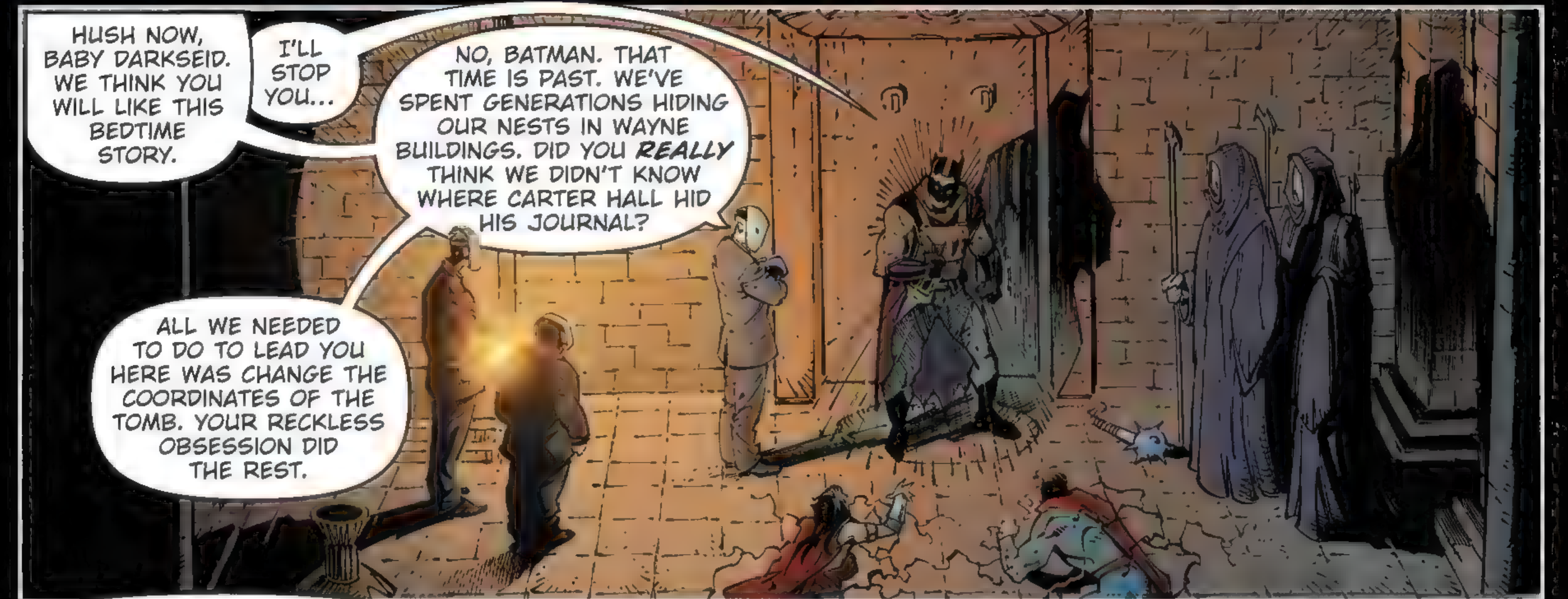


OH, HIDING IN HISTORY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE GREATEST TALENT OF THE COURT OF OWLS.

SINCE OUR ANCESTORS BROKE FROM THE BIRDS FOR THE BATS AND WERE CONDEMNED AS THE **JUDAS TRIBE**, WE'VE HELPED OUR DARK BRETHREN...

ALL THESE YEARS WE'VE BEEN PREPARING YOU FOR HIM, MY BOY. INFECTING YOU, WEIGHING YOU DOWN...EACH STEP BRINGING YOU CLOSER.

NOW OUR PACT IS COMPLETE, AND WE HAVE WOKEN THE ANCIENT STRIGYDAE SO THEY MIGHT BRING THE **BAT GOD** HERE FROM THE DARK.



HUSH NOW, BABY DARKSEID. WE THINK YOU WILL LIKE THIS BEDTIME STORY.

I'LL STOP YOU...

NO, BATMAN. THAT TIME IS PAST. WE'VE SPENT GENERATIONS HIDING OUR NESTS IN WAYNE BUILDINGS. DID YOU **REALLY** THINK WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE CARTER HALL HID HIS JOURNAL?

ALL WE NEEDED TO DO TO LEAD YOU HERE WAS CHANGE THE COORDINATES OF THE TOMB. YOUR RECKLESS OBSESSION DID THE REST.

NOW, THE FINAL STEP OF THE MANTLING WAS A CHALLENGE. THE LAST METAL DIDN'T EXIST IN OUR WORLD.

WE FUNDED THE SCIENCE, BUT IT WAS THE GREAT **POWERS COLLIDER** IN GOTHAM THAT FINALLY DID THE TRICK.

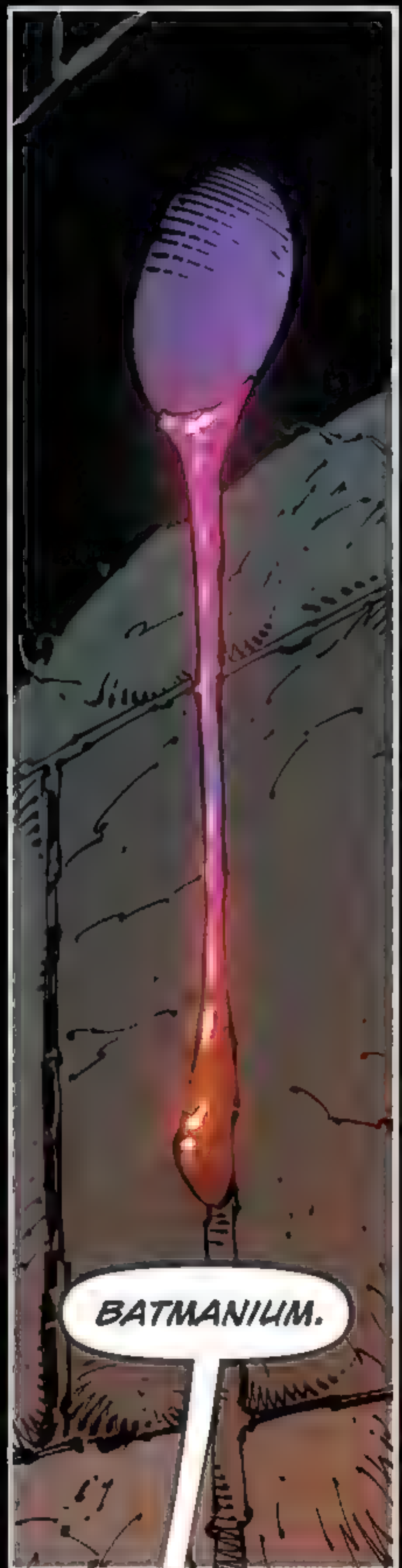
STORIES SO OFTEN RHYME IN THE MOST INTERESTING WAYS. WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE FINAL METAL WOULD BE **FORGED** IN THE HEAT OF THE COSMOS BENEATH **GOthAM CITY**.



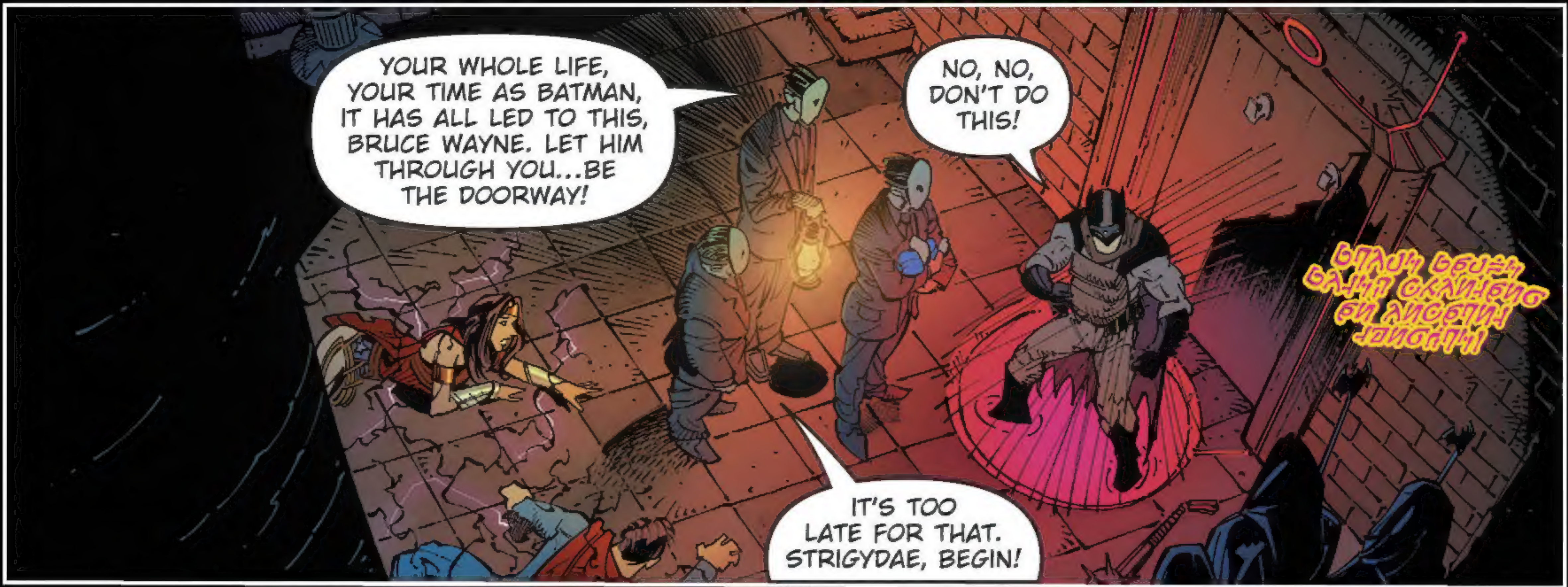
STOP THIS! STOP THIS NOW!



THE FINAL METAL, THE ONE TO DRAG YOU DOWN INTO THE DARK...NAMED PERFECTLY...



BATMANIUM.



YOUR WHOLE LIFE,
YOUR TIME AS BATMAN,
IT HAS ALL LED TO THIS,
BRUCE WAYNE. LET HIM
THROUGH YOU...BE
THE DOORWAY!

NO, NO,
DON'T DO
THIS!

IT'S TOO
LATE FOR THAT.
STRIGYDAE, BEGIN!

ԵՊԱՄԿ ԵՐԵՄԻ ԵՂԻՐ ԵՔԱՆԻՐՈՑ
ԸՆ ԱՊՈՇԻՆԻ ԴԱՊՈՏԻՆԻ



NO...



ԵՊԱՄԿ
ԵՐԵՄԻ ԵՂԻՐ



IT'S
OPENING! HE
HAS BECOME THE
DOORWAY!

THE
BAT GOD
COMES!

ԵՊԱՄԿ ԵՐԵՄԻ
ԵՂԻՐ ԵՔԱՆԻՐՈՑ
ԸՆ ԱՊՈՇԻՆԻ
ԴԱՊՈՏԻՆԻ



HAIL,
BARBATOS!
HE WILL
REWARD
US!

HE WILL
CHAIN THE
WORLD, AND WE
SHALL RULE
WITH HIM!

I SEE
SOMETHING!
LOOK!

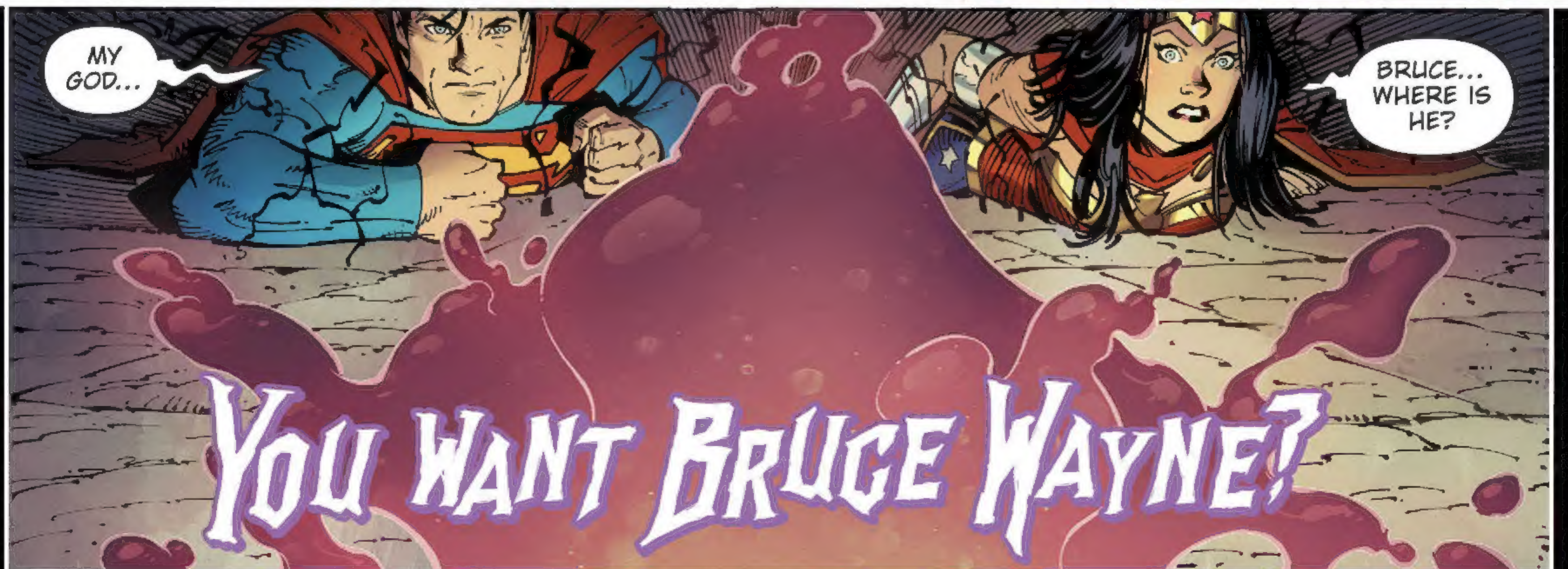
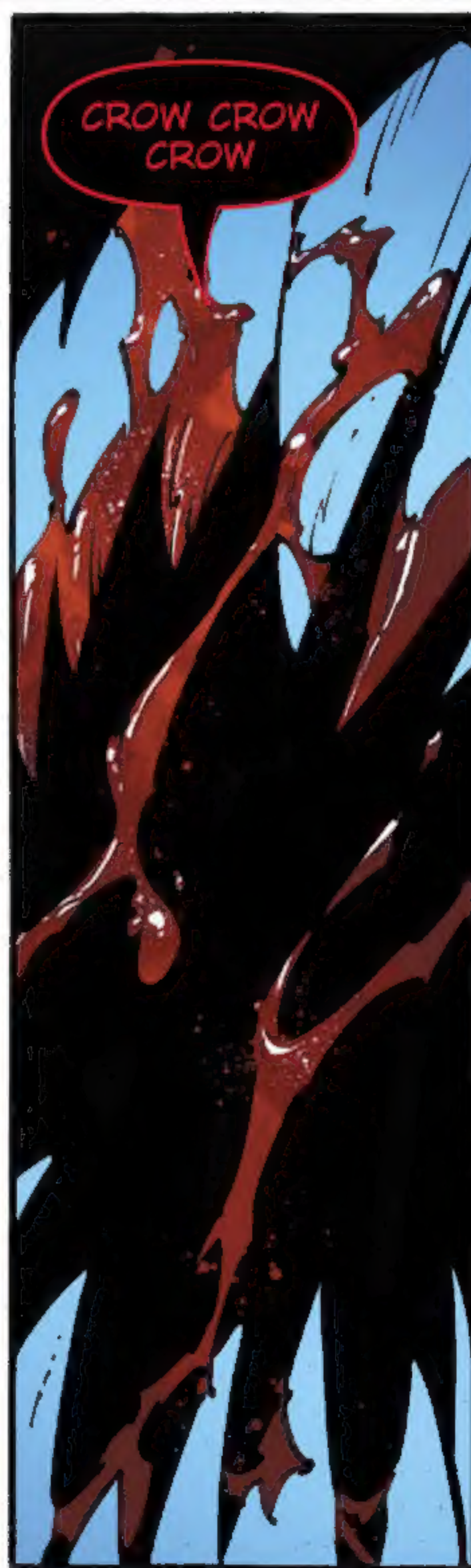
ԵՊԱՄԿ ԵՐԵՄԻ ԵՂԻՐ



SCREEEE!

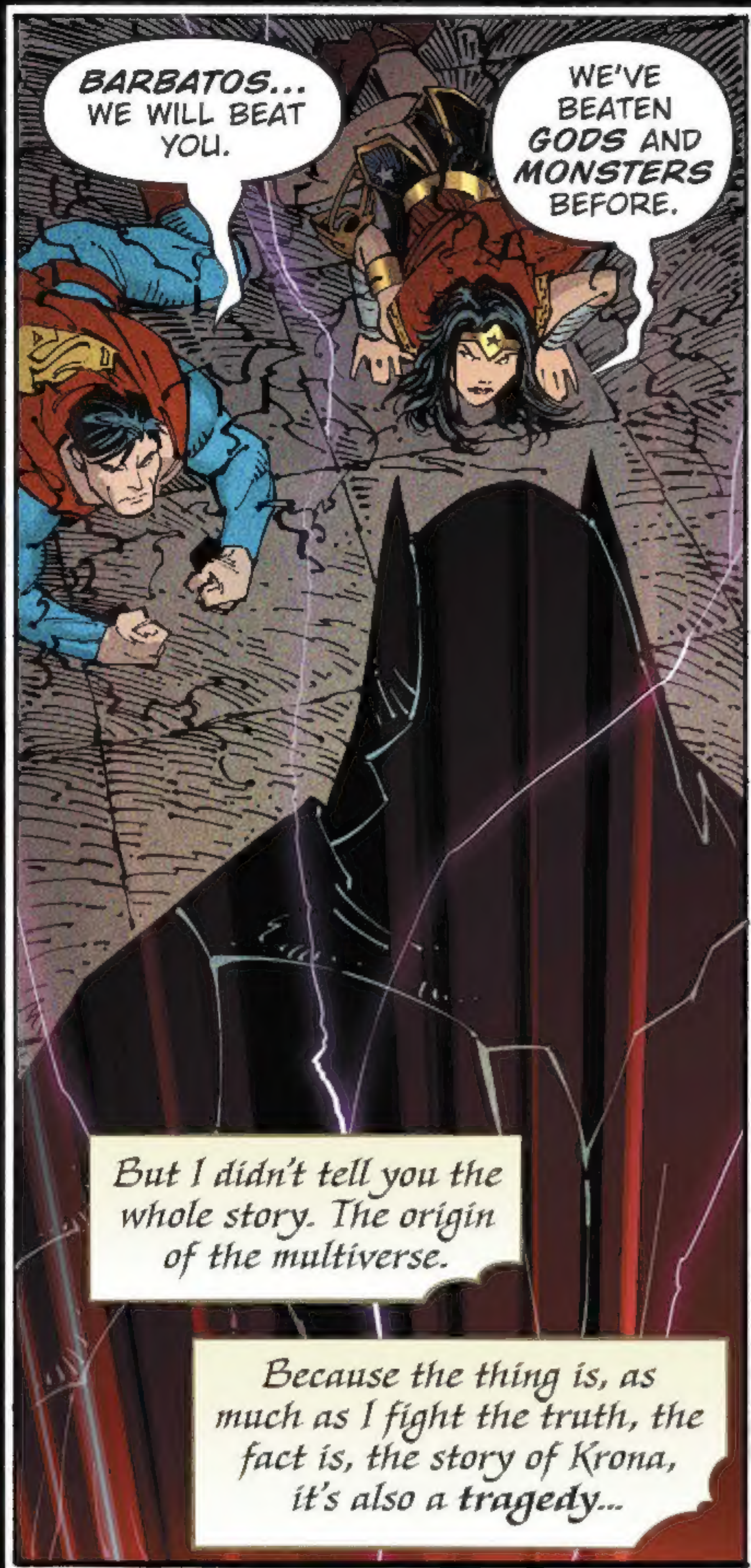
I CAN
HEAR HIM!

HE'S HERE!
HE'S HE--



LOOK AROUND.





BARBATOS...
WE WILL BEAT
YOU.

WE'VE
BEATEN
GODS AND
MONSTERS
BEFORE.

But I didn't tell you the
whole story. The origin
of the multiverse.

Because the thing is, as
much as I fight the truth, the
fact is, the story of Krona,
it's also a tragedy...



BECAUSE I LET YOU.

WELCOME TO
THE DARK.



See, Krona was reviled
for his hubris, for going
too far. He became the
most hated man in
the multiverse.

AAAAGH!

That great hand,
it might as well have
pointed its finger at
him and accused
him itself.

The origin story of
our multiverse, it's a
cautionary tale. It
says explore too far...

...and you may just
become the villain of
your own story.

THIS IS
GONNA BE
FUN.

NEXT: RISE OF THE DARK KNIGHTS!